

Record of Decision (ROD)

Bruce Spiller from CH2MHill discussed the Record of Decision (ROD) process. He said earlier this month, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reviewed the project and found it to be consistent with the policy and programs of the President of the United States. The ROD was then signed by the Assistant Secretary to the Army, Civil Works, who determined the project to be technically feasible, economically justified, in accordance with environmental statutes, and in the public interest. The next step is submission of the report to Congress for consideration.

Mr. Spiller discussed post-ROD analysis and said potential project modifications will be evaluated. Some of the changes may require additional studies, environmental assessments, or a supplement to the EIS (Environmental Impact Study). He said the Flood Diversion Board of Authority and local project sponsors will be 100% responsible for analyses and their associated costs for any changes outside of the Corps' process. He said each change will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Mr. Spiller said efforts of the Diversion Authority and local sponsors are to conduct a preliminary post-ROD analysis by October to include four studies as follows:

- move diversion inlet south of Oxbow;
- move diversion inlet north of the confluence of the Red and Wild Rice Rivers;
- evaluate staging and storage volume based on new or proposed upstream retention;
- protect Oxbow, Hickson and Bakke areas with levees or a ring dike.

Mr. Spiller said joint efforts and goals of the Corps and local sponsors are as follows:

- increased flows through town;
- VE 13, move diversion inlet slightly north;
- protect existing communities with levees (Comstock and Christine);
- conduct analysis while continuing design of project on schedule;
- continue to improve overall project value with goals to improve reliability, reduce impacts, and reduce costs.

Maple to Sheyenne River alignment update

Mr. Spiller said the local sponsors and Corps team are reviewing the alignment from the Maple River to the Sheyenne River. He hopes to present the revised alignment to the board at the next meeting.

Channel width decision update

Mr. Spiller said in order to add value and reduce costs, staff are looking at ways to optimize the channel width. He said the width will be maintained "as is" and will be further evaluated as the channel designs move from the north to the south.